GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2705
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
REPATRIATION OF INDIANS
SURESH KODIKUNNIL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indians were repatriated from Saudi Arabia recently who were employed illegally over there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Indians who are yet to be repatriated?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Saudi Government had announced an Amnesty period from April 20, 2000 to July 2, 2000, for overstayers and violators of the residence permit rules, during which they could either get their residential status regularized or leave the country to avoid penal action. The Indian Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate General in Jeddah issued Emergency Certificates to 7048 Indian nationals, who wished to leave Saudi Arabia under the Amnesty Scheme.

(c) It is estimated that approximately 4500 illegal residents have already returned to India and the Saudi authorities are gradually permitting the remaining persons to leave, after verifying that no charges or claims are pending against them.